



County of Los Angeles  
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June 30, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen   
Chief Administrative Officer

**WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE**

**Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21)**

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21), which funds Federal highway and transit programs, is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2005. Conference committee negotiations between the House and Senate formally began earlier this month, with the biggest difference being the overall funding level of the bill. The House bill (H.R. 3) recommends a six-year funding level of \$283.9 billion, a level supported by the Bush Administration, while the Senate bill (S. 732) proposes \$295 billion in funding. Discussions on changing the allocation formula for funds under the bill are on hold until an agreement on the overall funding level is reached. As a result, both chambers are expected to approve a short-term extension this week, most likely for 30 days. This will be the eighth extension since the original TEA-21 bill expired in 2003.

The County has requested funding for five projects in the reauthorization bill. Three of the five projects (Del Amo Boulevard, Colima Road, and the Malibu Tunnel) received full funding in H.R. 3, and two projects (Highway 138 and Gale Avenue) received partial funding. Because the Senate bill did not include specific member projects, our Washington, D.C. advocates have held discussions with Senate staff about obtaining full funding for these two projects in the Senate bill. At the same time, our advocates continue to work with House members to retain the funding levels for the projects that received full funding in the House bill. Retaining the funding for the House projects at

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the requested level is important because in the 1998 reauthorization, House projects were cut across the board by 20 percent in conference committee, and that money was used for Senate projects. The funding split between House and Senate projects is another issue that at present has not been resolved.

### **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Reauthorization**

On June 29, 2005, the House passed H.R. 3021, which reauthorizes TANF and Transitional Medicaid Assistance, and child welfare waiver authority through September 30, 2005. This represents the tenth short-term extension of TANF, which originally expired on September 30, 2002. The enactment of multi-year TANF reauthorization legislation has been delayed over continuing disagreements over work requirements and funding for child care and other provisions. The Senate is expected to approve H.R. 3021 on June 30, 2005, the date on which the current short-term extension expires.

In March 2005, the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committees approved their respective TANF reauthorization bills (S. 667/H.R. 240), both of which would extend TANF for five years at the current annual funding level of \$16.6 billion. As in past years, the House version would impose far more stringent work participation requirements and increase child care funding by \$1 billion over five years, compared to \$6 billion in the Senate bill. Neither bill has been scheduled for floor action.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:MT:EW:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist